



PDHS REVIEW

Newsletter of the
Pond Dakota Heritage Society

Volume 13 Issue 1

**Bloomington,
Minnesota
January 2016**

Inside this issue:

Pond Dakota Winter History Festival	1
Calendar of Events	2-3
Map to Pond Dakota Mission Park	3
The Pond Dakota Heritage Society	3
2016 Officers	4
PDHS Membership Renewal	4



Pond Dakota Winter History Festival

Sunday January 31, Noon – 4 pm

Pond Dakota Mission Park, Bloomington

If you enjoyed River Rendezvous in September, don't miss this chance to experience beautiful Pond Dakota Mission Park in the winter season!

Learn about tracking animals from a Dakota instructor, Harlan LaFontaine, while exploring Pond Dakota Mission Park. Fur trade re-enactor Lyle Emme will demonstrate how traps were used on the frontier, and display his collection of furs. Warm up with cocoa and cookies by the fireplace in the historic Pond House, then practice your tracking skills while playing Animal Track Bingo - complete with prizes! Gideon and Agnes Pond, portrayed by costumed re-enactors, will give tours of the house. All activities are free.

Limited parking is available in the Pond Dakota Mission Park parking lot. Additional free parking is available next door at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. For more information, call Bloomington Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8693. *Organized and sponsored by Bloomington Parks and Recreation and the Pond Dakota Heritage Society.*



Events at Pond Dakota Mission Park

The Pond House is open year round on Sundays from 1:30 – 4 p.m. Admission to programs and tours is free for Pond Dakota Heritage Society members and youth through high school. Suggested donation of \$2 for non-member adults.

JANUARY

Build a Model Log Cabin

Sunday, January 3 Drop-In program, 2–4 pm
Create your own mini log cabin using dowel “logs” and a cardboard box. Learn about frontier construction, and hear stories about the Pond brothers’ first log cabin at Bde Maka Ska (Lake Calhoun) and their first log Mission House in Bloomington. House tour at 1:30 pm.

Open House Sunday, January 10, 1:30-4 pm
While touring the Pond House today, hear the story of how Rev. Gideon Pond nearly drowned after breaking through the ice on Lake Harriet!

“The Rev. Jedediah D. Stevens, ABCFM Missionary and Colleague of the Pond Brothers” Sunday, January 17, 2 pm
Independent researcher Linda Louise Bryan will focus on Rev. Stevens’ association with the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), his personal background, a stint in the Ojibwe country, and his early years in the Fort Snelling area. Mrs. Bryan is a member of La Compagnie HSP, a Minnesota-based organization that presents fur trade history in public venues. House tours at 1:30 pm & 3:30 pm. Sponsored by PDHS.

Open House Sunday, January 24, 1:30-4 pm
Hear what was said by the Dakota Indians after Gideon Pond’s death on January 20, 1878, and while touring the historic Pond House, see the room where his body was laid in state.

Pond Dakota Winter History Festival Sunday, January 31, Noon-4 pm
Learn about tracking animals from Dakota instructor Harlan LaFontaine while exploring Pond Dakota Mission Park. Fur trade re-enactor Lyle Emme will

demonstrate how traps were used on the frontier, and display his fur collection. Then warm up with cocoa and cookies around the fireplace in the historic Pond House, and play Animal Track Bingo. All activities are free.

FEBRUARY

Open House Sunday, February 7, 1:30-4 pm
Tour guests at the house today will learn about the nearly 300 Dakota men who, on February 1, 1863, asked to be baptized by Gideon Pond and Dr. Thomas Williamson while awaiting their fate in the Mankato prison.

Open House Sunday, February 14, 1:30-4 pm
Explore “every nook and cranny” of the historic Pond House on a scavenger hunt! Successful hunters will receive a frontier toy prize to take home.

The Fur Trade in Minnesota Sunday, February 21, 2 pm
With over 40 years of experience in Minnesota River Valley history, Rich Williams will explore how the Minnesota fur trade thrived for over two centuries before the Ponds arrived. Learn about the region’s role in international big business - from the tales of French Canadian voyageurs and cheap European trade goods, to the currency of the southern Minnesota fur trade: the lowly muskrat. House tours at 1:30 pm & 3:30 pm. Sponsored by PDHS.

Open House & Agnes’s Sewing Circle Sunday, February 28, 1:30-4 pm
Join Agnes Hopkins Pond (portrayed in costume by Sheila Smith) for a tour of the historic Pond House, and after your tour enjoy cookies and conversation in the parlor. If you have knitting, crocheting, darning, or other small needle projects, bring them along! All ages are welcome.

MARCH**Open House Sunday, March 6, 1:30-4 pm**

House tours will include the story of Gideon's appointment to the 1st Territorial Legislature in March 1849 despite his protests – which gave him the opportunity to campaign for civil rights for American Indians and freed slaves.

Maple Sugaring**Sunday, March 13, Drop In Program, 2-4 pm**

Native Americans produced maple sugar for centuries and passed on their knowledge to frontier settlers. Now you can experience maple sugaring for yourself at the historic Pond House! Outdoors, learn from Jim Scanlon about choosing trees to tap, collecting the sap, and boiling it down to make syrup. Inside the house, watch Kris Scanlon transform syrup into maple sugar over the fire, and sample maple candy. House tours 1:30 to 4 pm.

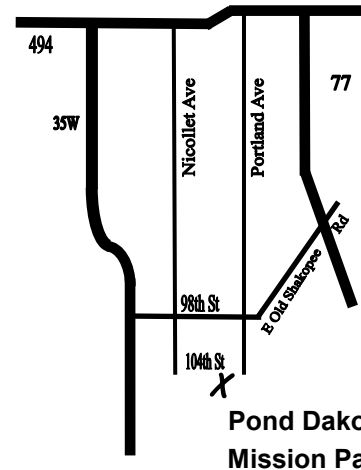
Widows and Orphans from the Dakota War: Opportunities and Obstacles**Sunday, March 20, 2 pm**

For many, the short U.S./Dakota War of 1862 came as a surprise and left behind unexpected issues. Historian Mary Bakeman will explore some of the decisions the survivors faced in recovering their lives. Now retired from the active book business, Mary continues to search out these untold stories. She volunteers in the MHS State Archives, is a church historian, and serves on the MN Annual Conference Commission on Archives & History. House tours at 1:30 pm & 3:30 pm. Sponsored by PDHS.

Sunday, March 27, 1:30-4 pm

The Pond House will be closed for Easter.

Pond Dakota Mission Park
401 East 104th Street
Bloomington, MN 55420



Interpretive signs describing the history of the Dakota in the Minnesota River Valley, and Gideon and Samuel Pond, missionaries who arrived in 1834, are located along the walking trails in the park. The 1856 Gideon and Agnes Pond House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park is open daily until 10 pm.

For more information about Pond Dakota Mission Park or private tours of the Gideon and Agnes Pond House, contact Mark Morrison, City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation, 952-563-8693, or mmorrison@BloomingtonMN.gov.

More about the Pond House at
www.BloomingtonMN.gov



Follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/GideonAgnesPondHouse

Pond Dakota Heritage Society
Learn more at www.ponddakota.org

We're on a mission to preserve the rich history of the Dakota and their relationship with early Minnesota settlers and Christian Missionaries, and to explore contrasting cultural and religious viewpoints. Renew or join today! Go to www.ponddakota.org/support.

Pond Dakota Heritage Society
P.O Box 20511
Bloomington, MN 55420

Return Service Requested

PDHS Officers for 2016

President - Sheila Strobel Smith
Vice-President – Stephen Osman
Secretary – Rod Myers
Treasurer - Jay Ludwig
Members at Large - Larry Granger,
Vonda Kelly, Jeff Williamson,
Candy Williamson

Learn more at ponddakota.org or
at facebook.com/PondDakota

2016 PDHS Membership Renewal

If you haven't already done so, it's time to renew your membership for 2016! Request a form via email at ponddakota@gmail.com and mail it with your check, or stop by the Pond House on a Sunday afternoon. Please include your email address so we can reduce our expenses for printing and stamps.

In lieu of raising dues for Individual (\$20) and Household (\$30) memberships, the PDHS Board has added two new categories for members who would like to make a larger contribution to PDHS. Please consider renewing your membership for 2016 at the Sustaining level (\$100 - \$499) or Benefactor level (\$500 or more).

Thank you for your continuing support of the Pond Dakota Heritage Society!